

not far short of \$30,000 worth of property, or what ought to be worth it, including my Government claim. But if the law had been as Mr. Benton would have it, I certainly would have made no such surrender, but struggled on as I could, without any resort to a Bankrupt Court. I am very sure I express in this, the sentiments of every other applicant in N. C. & probably 99 out of every 100 elsewhere.

The plot thickens here. The last three days have been busy ones in whipping the faithful into the ranks, and it is confidently said to day, among the Brownites, that they have accomplished their purpose, & on friday they intend to withdraw Genl. Saunders & elect Mr. Brown, & the fact that the Standard has to day pulled down the Generals flag and run up Mr. Brown's, & its attempt to frighten the impracticables into the ranks, and the fact that Mr. Brown has to day for the first time in a week, looked cheerful & at ease, induces me to think there is truth in the statement. But I know there are some of the Saunders men who still swear they will not be driven from his support. If 30 of them, or even 25 of them are *pluck*, on the next trial, Genl. Saunders will be the Senator—as in that event the Whigs I am sure would give him a majority over Mr. Brown. The zeal of the Standard and others to day, is intended to prevent such a result, and secure Brown's election at the expense of the sacrifices of the Genl—for some of their leaders don't hesitate to say openly, he has ruined himself with his party by suffering his name to be run & pushing his pretensions, when vetoed by the Caucus. I am a Saunders man & if you cannot be reelected, as it is clear the Whigs cannot do that at present, I do wish our friends to aid the Genl. in triumphing over a selfish clan who have used his influence & now kick aside the ladder.

Day before yesterday, Mr. Shepard introduced into the Senate a bold measure to be the order of the day on friday next. It is to authorize the issue of one million of Treasury notes to be divided among the Counties of the State, & by means of loan offices to be lent out to the people at $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent, reimbursable in 3 years; on pledges of real or personal security. Weldon N. Edwards¹⁵⁰ denounced it at the threshold as a violation of the Constitution

¹⁵⁰ Weldon Nathaniel Edwards (1788-1873), of Warren, a native of Northampton, was educated at the Warrenton Academy under Marcus George. He was a member of the commons, 1814-1815, member of congress, 1815-1827, state senator, 1833-1846, 1850-1854, (speaker 1850-1854), delegate to the convention of 1835, president of the convention of 1861. He was able, balanced, and effective. A devoted Democrat, he had the confidence of the Whigs as well.